MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 MARCH 1985

Iran

A bomb attached to a "terrorist" exploded at the Friday prayers ceremony at Tehran University on 15 March, IRNA announced. President 'Ali Khamene'i, who led the sermon, denounced the act as a plot by the "Munafiqeen splinter group," the agency reported. Five worshippers and the "terrorist" were killed as a result of the explosion, the agency stated.

Iran-Iraq War

While INA reported that Iranian artillery continued to shell Basra "residential areas" on 15 March, IRNA reiterated that Iran is prepared to halt its "aerial and missile" attacks on Iraqi residential areas if Iraq makes firm commitments to international organizations that it will stop its attacks on Iranian cities.

As for the battles east of the Tigris, an Iranian military communique reported that "magnificent victories" were achieved and that the number of Iraqi troops killed or wounded "surpassed 1,000," according to IRNA. The communique also stated that an Iraqi PC-7 plane was shot down in the area on 14 March. Nevertheless, an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio maintained that the Al-Humayun and Al-Sakhrah areas were "completely purged" and that "thousands" of Iranian troops have been killed.

Lebanon

Phalangist Internal Crisis — The Lebanese Forces Command Councilannounced the formation of an "emergency committee" following a 14 March meeting, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Fu'ad Nadir and Sami Ja'ja' were appointed members of the committee, the radio noted. Earlier, members of the Lebanese Forces Command met with members of the committee headed by the Maronite patriarch in Bkirki, according to the radio. In a statement on the Bkirki meeting broadcast by the radio, the leaders declared that they will continue to support all constitutional institutions.

Karami in Syria — Prime Minister Rashid Karami and Tourism Minister Walid Junblatt discussed the current Lebanese situation during a meeting with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, according to Damascus radio.

UK Scientist Kidnapped — A UK Embassy spokesman announced that a British metallurgist was kidnapped by three armed men near his home in West Beirut on 14 March, AFP reported.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher discussed the Middle East situation during their 14 March talks in London, MENA reported. According to a PRESS ASSOCIATION report on the talks, Prime Minister Thatcher "offered her support" for Mubarak's peace initiative.

Describing the results of Mubarak's talks with U.S. officials as "expected," a Cairo radio commentator, in remarks broadcast by the radio, said no one expected the United States to recognize the PLO or begin negotiations with a PLO-Palestinian delegation "immediately." The commentator went on to note that a "positive sign" was the fact that the United States "stressed" that peace talks should be based on returning occupied territories and restoring Palestinian rights.

OAPEC-Iraq

The OAPEC judicial tribunal rejected Iraq's request for "urgent measures" to reopen its oil pipeline through Syrian territory and decided that "irrepairable damage" can be financially compensated, KUNA reported.

Sudan

SPLA Attacks — A Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) battalion attacked and captured a Sudanese Army garrison near Mongalla in Equatoria on 13 March, the clandestine SPLA radio reported. In another report the radio announced that SPLA forces shot down a Buffalo transport plane at Akobo the same day. However, a Sudanese military spokesman maintained that the transport plane carrying supplies for refugees "crashed" during takeoff, according to SUNA.

Muslim Brotherhood — Information Minister 'Ali Shammu, in an exclusive statement to the Egyptian paper *AL-AHRAM* cited by MENA, said that Iran was behind the "recent attempt" by Muslim Brotherhood members to seize power in Sudan. 'Ali Shammu went on to describe the recent arrests of Muslim Brotherhood members as a "precautionary measure."

Pakistan

The Foreign Ministry lodged a "strong protest" with the DRA charge d'affaires over three incidents of airspace violations by DRA planes over the Arandu area on 13 March, Karachi radio reported. According to the report a total of 11 DRA planes dropped 37 bombs and fired rockets during the attacks.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Karmal Sends Congratulation Message to Gorbachev

LD141456 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto and Dari 1145 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Kabul, 24 Hoot, 14 Mar (BAKHTAR) – On the occasion of the election of Mikhail S. Gorbachev as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, the following congratulation message has been sent to Moscow from Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council:

Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee,

Dear Mikhail Sergeyevich,

On behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the people of Afghanistan and on my own behalf, I express my sincere and fraternal congratulations on the occasion of your election to the high and responsible rank of the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The workers of our country pay high respect to you as an outstanding party and state personality, a relentless Marxist-Leninist, devoted internationalist struggler and the dear friend of the people of Afghanistan.

The PDPA and the DRA Government are profoundly grateful to the Soviet Union and its selfless internationalist assistance to the free people of Afghanistan in its struggle against foreign interference by the forces of international imperialism, Chinese hegemonism and the reaction of the region for the consolidation of the national independence and sovereignty of the DRA, the realization of the aspirations of the April Revolution and the development of Afghanistan on the path of progress and creativity. In the future too, we shall render all measures towards the blossoming of internationalist friendship which link the DRA to the homeland of the great Lenin and the Soviet people. We shall consolidate our revolutionary solidarity and shall actively develop mutual, beneficial and all-around cooperation.

Dear Mikhail Sergeyevich, I assure you that the PDPA and the people of Afghanistan will not spare any efforts in rendering all-around assistance to the peace-loving foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet Government in the struggle towards reducing tension and maintaining international security for the purpose of restraining the forces of militarism and aggression, consolidating the unity of the forces of socialism, peace and progress and obtaining the national independence of the peoples.

I sincerely wish you health and greatest victories in accomplishing great and constructive tasks on the path of the construction of a communist society and struggle for maintaining lasting peace on the planet earth.

[Signed] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

NEW TIMES Cited on U.S. Military Aid to Pakistan

LD150638 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Kabul, March 14, BAKHTAR: A review of the facts shows that the cooperation of Pakistan's military with Washington in the country's militarisation has been growing more dangerous for the cause of peace and security in Asia, writes *KABUL NEW TIMES*.

Recently, the U.S. Administration once more promised military and economic package aid of over 4,000 million dollars to Pakistan for the next three years. No doubt, that aid just as the money granted before, will be used to supply Islamabad with the latest types of armaments and create new naval and air bases in Pakistan as part and parcel of the Pentagon's military strategy in the region.

The U.S. Central Command has already included Pakistan in the zone of operations of its "Rapid Deployment Force" and the American militarists are now planning to install their Pershing II nuclear missiles on its territory.

Not contented with billions of dollars from the U.S., Pakistan's military dictatorship is spending the lion's share of the national budget for its arms build-up. The share amounts to over 45 percent of all government spending which is the fourth largest proportion in the world. Small wonder that the nation should be experiencing most serious economic difficulties which are bearing hard on the Pakistani people. Pakistan's foreign debt has built up to 3,000 rupees per head.

Clandestine on Rebel Actions in Paktia Province

GI141800 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Pashto 1700 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] According to a report from a Paktia mujahidin source, 600 Soviet aggressor troops and Karmal mercenaries recently attacked mujahidin positions in Oruzgan District of Paktia Province. The mujahidin, in a counterattack between 1900 and 2400, killed 30 enemy soldiers and captured 6 others. The enemy troops withdrew after sustaining these casualties.

The same report says that a few days prior to this incident, Soviet and Karmal mercenaries moving between Gardez and Chamkani Districts of Paktia Province were ambushed by the mujahidin. The mujahidin destroyed five Soviet mountainous terrain tanks and seven trucks, killing the passengers and crews.

Gandhi Speaks on Solution to Punjab Problem

BK141014 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] The prime minister said the government would like to restore popular rule in Punjab, for which a proper climate should be created there. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was addressing the general body meeting of the Congress-I parliamentary party in New Delhi this morning. He reiterated that terrorists will not be shown any leniency and will be dealt with firmly. Briefing newsmen, the secretary of the parliamentary party, Mr J.K. Jain, said Mr Gandhi made it clear that talks with the Akalis could be held only within the framework of the Constitution. He said the Akalis should also completely delink themselves from the terrorists and they should publicly clarify their position on this issue. Listing the steps taken to release the prisoners and restore normalcy in Punjab, the prime minister said that most of the Akali leaders have been released from detention. Mr Gandhi expressed the hope that the Akalis will not again tread the wrong path.

Making a brief reference to the situation in Sri Lanka, the prime minister said the government has received a letter from the Sri Lanka Government on the issue of the ethnic minority in that country. He made it clear that the ethnic problem has to be solved politically.

Intervening during question time on the Punjab issue in the Rajya Sabha, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that the rejection of the Anandpur Sahib resolution in its entirety by the Akalis was not a precondition for negotiations. He said there were certain clauses in the resolution which need to be rejected. They were not conducive to a united and secular India. The Akali leadership will have to clarify its stand on this.

On center-state relations, the prime minister said the Akali Dal is welcome to put its argument before the Sarkaria Commission.

In reply to another question regarding the involvement of the opposition in finding a solution to the Punjab problem, Mr Gandhi said the opposition parties will be involved at the appropriate stage.

Earlier, in reply to the main question, the home minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, said the Cabinet subcommittee looking into the Punjab problem is currently examining various aspects of the matter. A number of Akali leaders who were under detention have been released to create a congenial atmosphere for a solution to the problem. He said the Cabinet committee proposes to visit Punjab and meet various sections of society.

Home Minister on Presence of Army in Punjab

BK141603 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Replying to supplementaries in the Rajya Sabha, the home minister said the Army has been withdrawn from Punjab except from 3 districts. Mr S.B. Chavan said the Army will be there in one form or the other, and the local police will be involved more in the maintenance of law and order. Regarding a judicial inquiry into the tragic incidents following the assassination of Mrs Gandhi, the minister said no issue can be settled in a piecemeal fashion, and there has to be a package deal on the issue.

Arjun Singh Takes Oath as Punjab Governor

BK141615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Mr Arjun Singh was sworn in as the governor of Punjab this evening. The oath of office was administered by the acting chief justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Justice P.C. Jain, at Chandigarh. Addressing a news conference immediately after the swearing in, Mr Arjun Singh announced the withdrawal of the order banning the publication and reporting of matters relating to the operations of security forces. Mr Arjun Singh said it will be foremost endeavor to gain the faith and trust of the people of Punjab. He sought the cooperation of all in the creation of a peaceful atmosphere in the state.

Earlier in New Delhi, Mr Arjun Singh had a meeting with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Investigation Into Espionage Ring Continues

Chavan on Investigation

BK141623 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Government has set up a committee to streamline the handling of all classified information and security procedures. Replying to a calling-attention motion on the recent espionage activities tabled by Mr Braja Mohan Mohanty, Congress-I, and others in the Lok Sabha today, the home minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, assured the members that the investigations would soon be brought to a successful conclusion and suitable action taken against all those responsible for the leakage and espionage activities. He said 18 persons have so far been arrested, out of which 13 are serving government employees.

During the discussion, members urged the government to come out with full facts to allay misgivings. They also urged the need for a better coordination among the intelligence agencies, like the Research and Analysis Wing and Central Bureau of Investigation.

The minister categorically denied the involvement of senior officials or politicians.

'Appropriate Action' Assured

BK150916 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] The Rajya Sabha was assured today that appropriate action will be taken against all those responsible for espionage activities. In a statement in response to a call-attention motion on the recent leakage of classified official documents, the home minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, said a number of measures have been taken to ensure the security and secrecy of the classified documents in various ministries and departments. The call-attention

motion was moved by Mr S.S. Bagla, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], and eight others.

Mr Chavan said a committee has been constituted to streamline security procedures concerning such documents. The minister pointed out that, as the investigations are still in progress, it will not be possible to give details about the case registered in Delhi in the 2d week of January last. He said there have some speculations about the involvement of foreign agencies in this case. He said, though some foreign nationals did play a part in this particular case, it would not be proper to specify the foreign agencies or the diplomats who might be involved in this case in the interest of our good relations with the foreign countries.

AFP Report

HK141450 Hong Kong AFP in English 1438 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] New Delhi, March 14 (AFP) — India has enough evidence to prosecute all 18 people accused in the country's biggest spying scandal, Home Minister Shankarro Chavan told Parliament today.

He said that statements of 120 witnesses had been recorded, giving sufficient evidence to prosecute the 13 government employees, one retired civil servant and four businessmen who had been arrested in the case revealed on January 18.

He also said that some foreign nations had played a part in the spy ring but declined to specify the governments. The Indian media last month reported that French, Polish, East German and Soviet Diplomats had been expelled for involvement in the case.

Mr. Chavan said that the investigations had revealed the existence of a well organized conspiracy, trading information about the security of the country.

He said that security at all sensitive government departments had been tightened and the staff in these departments was being kept under constant surveillance.

External Affairs Minister on Tamil Refugees

Diplomatic Solution Sought

BK141633 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Intrusion by Sri Lanka forces into the Indian territorial waters has stopped following an intensive surveillance. This was stated by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, in the upper house of parliament today.

Answering a spate of supplementaries on the influx of the Sri Lankan refugees and attacks on Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan forces, he reiterated the government's commitment to find a diplomatic solution to the problem. He (?said) that the matter has been raised twice in the United Nations and once before the Human Rights Commission. Also India has lodged a strong protest with Sri Lanka over the provocative actions by its forces.

Mr Khan said all the Sri Lankan refugees will be looked after so long as they remain on Indian soil.

Influx Causing 'Severe Strain'

HK141318 Hong Kong AFP in English 1226 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] New Delhi, March 14 (AFP) — The Indian Government has been put under severe strain by the influx of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees into the southern state of Tamil Nadu, it was stated in Parliament today.

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Khurshid Alam Khan said a total of 2,722 families, comprising 11,225 people, had arrived recently as refugees in the southern coastal town of Rameswaram.

The minister, in a written reply to the upper house of the Indian Parliament, did not indicate when the refugees had arrived, but said the figure was in addition to over 50,000 who came here after the July 1983 ethnic violence in Sri Lanka.

The state-run All India Radio said earlier today that 16,411 Tamil refugees had arrived in Rameswaram since February 5.

Mr. Khan said there was camp accomodation for only 2,500 people in the Rameswarem District of Tamil Nadu State.

The minister said that India had conveyed its concern over the influx of refugees to the Sri Lankan Government and had urged Colombo to take steps which would stop the exodus.

Mr. Khan also told the house that India had intensified its coastal patrols in the narrow Palk Straits separating the two countries to protect Indian fishermen.

India claims that its fishermen have been attacked by the Sri Lankan Navy patrolling the straits in search of Tamil separatists.

A section of Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamils are waging a violent campaign for a separate state in the north and east of the country claiming discrimination by the Sinhalese majority.

TULF Leader Calls for Tamils' Return to Sri Lanka

BK140527 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Forty-four more Tamil families of Sri Lanka, consisting of 105 members, arrived at Rameswaran, yesterday. This brings the total number of refugees from Sri Lanka since the 5th of last month to over 16,400. According to official sources in Rameswaram, over 9,600 Tamil refugees have been sent to various districts of Tamil Nadu till Saturday last [9 March].

Meanwhile, the secretary general of the Tamil United Liberation Front, Mr Amirthalingam, urged India to use its good offices to create an amicable situation in Sri Lanka to enable the Tamils' return to the island. He alleged that atrocities against Tamils in Sri Lanka are continuing.

According to agency reports, the Sri Lankan Government has approved charter and operation of a passenger ship between Colombo and Tuticorin to help repatriate people of Indian origin keen to leave the island. Ferry services between Sri Lanka and Rameswaram were stopped recently. A proposal to start the shipping service was approved by the Sri Lankan Cabinet at its weekly meeting in Colombo yesterday.

Aviation Cooperation Protocol Signed With USSR

BK130543 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have signed a protocol reiterating continued cooperation between the two countries in the aviation industry. The protocol was signed in New Delhi at the end of the visit of high-level Soviet delegation led by the minister for aviation industry, Mr I.S. Silayev.

3-Year Economic Agreement Signed With PRC

BK021126 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Mar 85

[Text] An 8-member Chinese delegation headed by the chairman of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Mr Wang Yaoting, held discussions with the representatives of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi today. The two sides signed a 3-year agreement to develop economic and trade relations.

The agreement provides, among other things, for encouraging joint ventures and providing consultancy services.

It also provides for interchange of economic, trade, and technical delegations and participation in international fairs being held in the two countries.

Zia Returns to Islamabad After Chernenko Funeral

BK150324 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq returned to Islamabad early this morning after attending the funeral of the late Soviet President Chernenko in Moscow.

Zia Views Moscow Talks with Gorbachev, Gandhi

BK151049 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] The president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has said he had a full length bilateral meeting with the new Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, in Moscow yesterday at which he had useful exchange of views with him, Afghanistan being on top. He was addressing a news conference in Rawalpindi this morning a few hours after his return home from Moscow after attending the last rites of the late Soviet president, Mr Chernenko.

The president said his detailed talks with Mr Gorbachev, held in a pleasant and businesslike atmosphere, have reinforced his conviction that given the patience, good will, and understanding on both sides, Pakistan and the Soviet Union can make progress toward lowering their differences on Afghanistan and finding a mutually satisfactory and acceptable solution of the problem.

The president said both Pakistan and the Soviet Union were of the view that the problem of Afghanistan does not admit of a military solution and can be resolved through negotiations. While there were obvious differences of perception, he left Mr Gorbachev in no doubt about the sincerity and seriousness with which Pakistan was pursuing the objective of finding a peaceful political solution of the problem. He was reassured by the new Soviet leader that the Soviet Union, too, was committed to supporting a political solution under the auspices of the United Nations-sponsored indirect talks. The Soviet Union believes in the usefulness of these talks.

The president said he was impressed by the dynamism and energy, and clarity of thought of the new Soviet leader who has set a new trend in Soviet leadership and this can be helpful in improving the bilateral relations. He said his full length meeting with the new Soviet leader was besides the one he had with him on Wednesday along with other world leaders after the funeral ceremony of President Chernenko.

About his meeting in Moscow with the Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the president said both of them were fully in agreement to carry forward the process of normalization of bilateral relations. He said a high-powered Indian delegation would be visiting Pakistan in the next few days at the behest of the Indian prime minister for discussions.

The delegation will be led by the Indian foreign secretary, Mr Bhandari, who will be having talks in Islamabad with his counterpart, Mr Niaz A. Naik. The president said they welcomed this move and hoped that along with other efforts, the relationship between Pakistan and India would be well set on the road to normalization.

The president said he had a useful exchange of views with all those leaders whom he met in Moscow. They all welcomed the completion of the process of elections in Pakistan. The president congratulated the newly elected senators and expressed the hope that the nation would enter the next phase of democratic era in as smooth a manner as the entire election process was completed.

Commentary Cites Ziaul Haq Interview on India

BK111244 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1715 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Commentary by A.M.K. Mahwani]

[Text] In an interview some days ago with an Indian journalist, Pakistan's President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that his country would welcome any initiative coming from India for the forging of good relations between the two neighboring countries. He pointed out that the ball was very much in the Indian court since Pakistan had fulfilled one of the conditions which had been stated in India and had lately become the cause of heart burning and suspicion — the trial of the hijackers of the Indian plane last year. The Indian prime minister, it was said, had welcomed the announcement made in this regard.

Pakistan had originally proposed a no-war pact with India. India had [word indistinct] with a treaty of friendship in 1982. Pakistan was not averse to the proposal, but it was anxious that the two countries should come to the grip with the problem instead of dragging their feet. Expectations ran high and there was a good deal of exchange of journalists and delegations. But, then something soured the situation. India accused Pakistan of piling of arms, threatening it; though the question had been solved when earlier the Indian foreign minister had visited Pakistan. Then Pakistan was accused of meddling with Indian affairs, helping Sikhs; though Pakistan had been repeatedly telling that it had nothing to do with the Sikh struggle which was absolutely an internal matter of India.

During the days prior to the sad demise of the late Mrs Indira Gandhi, things had not been quite good. But in due course, by word and action Pakistan has been able to partly convince the Indian leaders that it had nothing to do with any problem in India nor was it in any way trying to destabilize conditions there. In fact, Pakistan needed all the stability that could be [words indistinct] South Asia and any upsetting of the internal peace against its interest.

As for the matter of nuclear program of Pakistan, it was purely for peaceful purposes. Pakistan was able to reprocess nuclear fuel for which it had been able to acquire the technology, but could only do so up to 5 percent of that reprocessing, enough for power generation. For a nuclear weapon the reprocess has to be up to more than 90 percent — quality which required a lot of money which Pakistan did not have. The president suggested that if India was still suspicious of Pakistan's intentions, let them both have a bilateral nonproliferation treaty by virtue of which both sides could inspect the nuclear installations of the other without interference from outside. Another point of difference between India and Pakistan was the Indian stand on the Afghanistan question. This country wished India to be pragmatic to express

its views without fear or favor as Pakistan does. Pakistan would like to have as good relations with the Soviet Union as India has. But the (?pressure) of circumstances have pushed matters into a slightly different direction. Pakistan's biggest and closest neighbor is India. The people of both countries come from the same stock, have passed through similar political experiences. They should have the best of relations for their mutual benefit. Pakistan would also like to have good relations with other close neighbors, that is China, Soviet Union, and Iran without any ill will toward India. These are imperatives for [word indistinct] and it is quite possible we can indulge in these imperatives if either the no-war pact or the friendship treaty is signed between Pakistan and India. It would open the door for better trade, free movement of people from one country to the other which would help in eradicating the atmosphere of uncalled for suspicion of each other's intentions. Whenever such an exchange had taken place, even for a short while, the results had always been good. But then [words indistinct]. If there is a real urge in India, a new leaf can be turned and relations can really grow [words indistinct].

Pakistan has done everything possible to allay the Indian doubts expressed from time to time and has taken up the trial of the hijackers which India seemed to have wanted so anxiously. Now it is for New Delhi to make the next move. It is expected that the move will come and talks will start soon, this time reaching some point of achievement.

13 Mar Afghan Airspace Violations Protested

BK141533 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Afghan aircraft violated Pakistani airspace over the Arandu region of Chitral District three times yesterday. Two Afghan fighter planes violated Pakistan's airspace at 0830 in the morning and penetrated up to 3 km into Arandu. They dropped 16 bombs on Pakistani territory about 3 km south of Arandu. They also fired some rockets. Again at 1040 in the morning, three more Afghan aircraft violated Pakistani airspace and dropped eight bombs. Later, at 1515, 6 planes intruded into that area dropping 13 bombs and firing a number of rockets. There is no report of any loss of life or property so far.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad this afternoon and a strong protest was lodged with him over these unprovoked attacks.

5 Killed in Clashes With Khyber District Tribes

BK150303 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] According to a press note issued in Peshawar, an effective campaign had been launched against the production and procurement of heroin and to eliminate anti-social activities in the Khyber District. In the campaign, more than 40 factories producing heroin were either closed or destroyed.

The press note adds that people involved in the production and procurement of heroin, kidnapping, sheltering criminals, and other nefarious activities had started gathering around a rebel tribal leader Wali Khan Kukikhel. A tribal force was formed which kidnapped many people.

The press note further adds that after the failure of peaceful measures, a tribal meeting was summoned on the 8th of this month which was attended by 300 notables of Afridi and Shinwari tribes of the district. The tribal notables were told to hand over the miscreants to the local authorities within 3 days in accordance with the tribal tradition, but they could not comply with this. The political agent of the Khyber District gave final warning to Kukikhel to surrender himself to the authorities, failing which his house would be destroyed in accordance with tribal tradition. But he did not do so. Consequently, his house was demolished through a general procedure without any loss of life.

The press note adds that the miscreants blocked roads, including the Peshawar-Jamrod highway. They also fired on parties removing these road blocks. During the return of fire, five persons were killed and six injured from both sides.

Explosion During Khamene'i Friday Sermon Kills 5

'Light Explosion' Heard

LD150924 Tehran IRNA in English 0919 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA — A light explosion was heard at the place of the Friday mass prayers at 12:33 (09:03 GMT), as President 'Ali Khamene'i was delivering his sermon.

The president's speech was interrupted for three minutes by cries of Allah-o Akbar from the massive crowd of worshippers at the Tehran University and the surrounding areas.

Khamene'i later resumed his sermon, saying that the explosion was probably a sabotage by the munafiqeen. He said he had been told that there were apparently no casualties or damages.

'Terrorist' Killed

LD150956 Tehran IRNA in English 0951 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA — A terrorist was killed when his hand-made bomb wrapped around his waist exploded among the crowd of worshippers at the Tehran University Friday prayers. There were also a number of casualties among the worshippers, an IRNA correspondent reported from the university. The explosion briefly interrupted a sermon by President 'Ali Khamene'i

Following the calm down of the massive crowd of the worshippers who chanted slogans in condemnation of such an act of sabotage, President Khamene'i resumed his speech by denouncing the act as "a dastardly plot by the munafiqeen splinter group".

The president's statements were followed by the worshippers' slogans attributing the incident to munafiqeen and referring to them as "traitors and terrorists". The slogans being chanted by the worshippers are indicative of the collaboration of munafiqeen with the Iraqi regime.

The Friday mass prayers are still continuing and President Khamene'i is delivering his sermons which is being broadcast live by the radio.

5 Killed, 10 Injured

LD151120 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA — A bomb attached to a terrorist at the Friday mass prayers ripped through the crowd of worshippers and President 'Ali Khamene'i said such acts would make the Iranian people more uncompromising towards the agents of world powers.

The terrorist attack occurred at 12:33 (09:03 GMT), martyring five worshippers and injuring 10 others. The terrorist was instantly killed. President 'Ali Khamane'i continued his sermon at the prayers after a brief interruption, amidst the loud shouts of tens of thousands of worshippers, crying "Allah-o Akbar" and "Death to munafiqeen."

"How wicked and cowardly could one be to threaten the lives of a crowd of innocent worshippers," the president said. "they (munafiqeen) should know for sure that to whatever extent they inflict damages, the people will become more uncompromising against the internal mercenaries of the arrogant powers."

The bomb went off 30 minutes before Iraqi aircraft intruded Tehran's airspace, triggering a hail of anti-aircraft fire in the capital.

The air intrusion was apparently timed unsuccessfully to coincide with the explosion at the university, in order that the Iraqi regime could claim the attack had been carried out an air attack against the Friday prayers in Tehran.

The president, who is also the head of the Supreme Defence Council, said the past seven days were the Islamic Republic's "retaliation week" and vowed "We will continue (retaliation) with full force."

"We will answer every fist with a harder fist."

He stressed that the Islamic Republic had no enmity towards the Iraqi people, "but why should the people of Dezful be hit with missiles and the people in Baghdad should not? Why?"

Khamene'i also warned Iran would widen its retaliatory actions to include chemical attacks and attacks on shipping in the Persian Gulf.

"I have a message for the secretary general of the United Nations and to many friendly countries, that although we are capable to retaliate, we do not want to hit ships (in the Persian Gulf) and use chemical and other weapons. But we have given our ultimatum, and we declare here and now that we are able to retaliate every action... If Iraq uses chemical weapons, we will give a firmer reply and be sure that we will do it."

Khamene'i Speech at Friday Prayers on Retaliation

LD151417 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Correspondents of the Central News Unit of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic report from all over the country that millions of the Muslim people of our Islamic homeland attending this week's Friday prayers ceremonies, while glorifying the remarkable victory scored by the Islamic forces east of the Tigris, called for the continuation of the war until the downfall of Saddam's Zionist regime. Chanting the slogan "War! War! Until victory!" the worshippers called on those in charge of problems of the war and our country's defense to prosecute the war until the final victory of the Islamic Army over the Baghdad aggressor regime. According to the same reports the participants in the Friday prayers expressed appreciation for the valiant operations conducted by the Air Force pilots and called for decisive retaliatory measures.

A Central News Unit correspondent adds: Tehran's vast congregation also took part in this week's Friday prayers ceremonies held under the imamate of Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. Tehran's

Friday imam. The report adds: The Tehran people's slogans this week, based on the need for a decisive continuation of operations by Islam's combatants until the final and decisive victory, were more resounding and loud and clear.

Tehran's Friday imam and the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said in his sermons during this week's Friday prayers in Tehran:

[Begin Khamene'i recording] Just as I have humbly said, this week for us is one of retaliation in kind. By the grace of God we have carried out our retaliatory policy powerfully and comprehensively [chants of "God is great!"]. Kindly do not chant "God is great!" now and permit me to continue, because the time for chanting "God is great!" will also come. We have not confined our retaliation in kind to one front. In Baghdad, in Kirkuk, in numerous cities, in industrial centers and in the military assembly centers and even on the warfront we have pursued our retaliatory policy.

We have precisely identified Saddam's weak point and placed our finger on it. What is the reason for Saddam's resorting to striking at our cities, to chemical bombs and to striking at shipping? It is his military weakness. We have recognized and known this weakness. The moment we saw Saddam strike at Ahvaz, Ilam, Bakhtaran, Borujerd, Hamadan and other cities we went and struck at the war front. Our retaliation in kind was confined not merely to striking at Baghdad. By the grace of God and with the fire of the heroic, intrepid combatants of Islam we conquered the most sensitive point for him; that is, the warfronts, and repulsed the enemy. Today the Muslim combatant forces of the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards have crossed the borders and are deployed on the banks of the Tigris for several kilometers and have defeated the enemy.

Retaliation means this! Of course, we have also struck at Baghdad so that they may believe us because we have noticed that these people do not believe our threat, our warning.

The point that I would like to see as the center of attention of the neighboring governments, world public opinion and particularly the United Nations is this: It is precisely the indulgences of these international organizations and these supporters of Iraq that has prolonged the war to this point, because the war should be conducted on fronts and in the deserts; war has nothing to do with the cities; war has nothing to do with commercial shipping. What has war to do with oil tankers and oil exports? It is these people who showed indulgence.

The day Iraq began the war, we said: Punish the initiator, censure him or, at least, protest to him! But they did not punish him, they also encouraged him sometimes with their silence and at others with their remarks. Well, the result is just as you may notice. So when he saw that on the battlefield and on the warfront his blade had lost its cutting edge, he resorted to unmanly, brigand-like, inglorious peripheral actions. Well, when a defenseless oil tanker is sailing on the sea and you fire a missile from a few dozen or even a few hundred kilometers that hits this ship, where is the cause for glory here? This is no great art! When you come to the battlefield our combatants strike at your tanks, when you come onto the warfront with your forces and your modern materiel and equipment, then you beat a retreat, then you go ahead and attack with missiles a warship: an oil tanker! Well, what does attacking an oil tanker mean?! It means you're helplessness on the battlefield.

Once again we told the United Nations of this; we told the world about it. We said: Do not allow Iraq to continue these wicked deeds. But they did not hear us and did not listen. It is natural that we cannot unilaterally put up with his wicked deeds while we keep quiet, remain patient and show forbearance. He began the chemical bombing; he began striking at our cities.

Many times we said: Stop striking at our cities; do not hit the cities. They have now been striking some 3 and 1/2 years at our cities and populated regions, and how many young children have perished! How many schools have witnessed the martyrdom of youngsters! How many families have been bereaved! We kept issuing warnings and kept saying that we might retaliate in kind, that we will do so, but they did not listen. Finally, we retaliated in kind. We were forced to retaliate. Today we have proven to Iraq that when we said that if we wanted to retaliate in kind we could find even more sensitive targets than Basra we were right. Today, too, I will say: There are suitable targets for us throughout Iraq, from Baghdad, Mawsil, Kirkuk, north, south, in all centers of Iraq, and whenever we deem it necessary or appropriate we can strike at them. [loud chants of "God is great!"] And it is quite natural for us to strike at them; it is quite natural.

Why should the people of Dezful be hit by missiles, while Baghdad people are not? Why? Why should aggression be allowed to take place against our cities' safe and secure centers whereas they remain snug and cozy? By what logic could this be bearable and acceptable to our people? Of course, we harbor no animosity toward the Iraqi people, but rather we are their friends. So we have told them the situation. In this very sermon in Arabic I have also told them that our aim is only Saddam and the Saddamists, and that they should separate themselves from them; they should depart from their assembly centers, as we do not like to see even one of the people being injured. And praise be to God! So far whatever we have hit has been mainly those places connected with military centers, sensitive centers, economic centers and those places of importance to this 'Aflaqite system in Baghdad.

Today they employ chemical bombs, and once again we issue a warning. Let the United Nations, international organizations, the governments in the region know that we cannot always stop at just issuing warnings. So why do they strike with their chemical bombs, for we can outdo them in this, and we can produce better chemical bombs and our capability in these matters is greater than theirs! They have to go and obtain these, but right here with the help of our experts and enthusiastic and committed brains we could produce these. Well, if we have to, we will be able to retaliate in kind, but we are unwilling to do so. So this is a warning.

Today I sent a message to the UN secretary general, to a great many of the heads of the friendly countries, and the Foreign Ministry has waged a vast and continuous campaign in order to convey to these people, the heads of the countries friendly to us,

the heads of international organizations, that although we are able to retaliate in kind we are unwilling to strike at the cities and to employ chemical means and to hit shipping. We are also declaring this right now. Of course, we sent a message to the United Nations, to the UN secretary general to the effect that we have nothing to do with the UN Security Council because we entertain no hopes whatsoever from it and have no expectations of any good thing from the Security Council, and we do not believe that such a thing is likely. However, we have issued an ultimatum to all those with whom one could speak.

Now, too, we declare that, and you our dear brothers and sisters, know this. In all spheres we are capable of retaliating in kind. You saw that our retaliation was not confined to the cities. On the fronts, too, we have retaliated in kind. They hit our cities, so we went and conquered the fronts. They opposed our civilian population, so we went and routed their military people. These operations of which you have heard were in fact retaliatory operations. These operations were in effect retaliation for the ugly and dastardly deeds that they perpetrated against our civilian population. We carried out these operations on the battlefield, in manly, hand-to-hand fighting, in accordance with the well-known principles of Islam.

And we are reluctant to have anything to do with the cities, to employ chemical means and chemical reagents. We wish to see ships, oil tankers, come and go freely and do what they have to do. We are unwilling to strike at shipping from both sides. [sentence as heard]. Let there be security. But if they should attempt to create insecurity, if they were to use missiles to strike the cities, if they were to strike at shipping, if they were to employ chemical means, chemical weapons, we could retaliate against this blow of theirs with a more powerful blow, and know for certain that we will answer that! [end recording]

Gandhi Message to Khamene'i Urges Halt to Bombing

LD141737 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] In a message to our country's president today, the Indian prime minister asked for a halt to attacks on civilian areas by both countries. Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the prime minister of India and the head of the Nonaligned Movement, in a message which was submitted to our country's Foreign Ministry by the Indian ambassador in Tehran, expressed deep regrets over the renewal of attacks on civilian areas and asked for the halting of such attacks by both countries in accordance with the agreement of 12 June 1984.

It is necessary to explain that on 8 March, the UN secretary general, in messages to Iran and Iraq, called upon both countries to observe the 12 June agreement and halt attacks on residential areas. The Islamic Republic of Iran gave a prompt, positive reply to this request, but the Iraqi regime, by refusing to reply to this proposal, has continued attacking nonmilitary and residential areas.

Khamene'i Receives Guinea-Bissau's Camara

LD141729 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 14, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamane'i Thursday met with Iafai Camara, who is the Guinea-Bissau vice chairman and minister of Armed Forces currently heading a delegation in Tehran.

At the meeting which was also attended by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Camara presented Khamenei with a message from the Guinea-Bissau president and expressed his country's full support for Iran in the Iraqi-imposed war.

"Officials in Guinea-Bissau closely follow the developments of this war and sincerely hope that the war is ended as soon as possible and that Iran could return to reconstructing the country," Camara said.

In reply, President Khamene'i said the most important link between the two countries were their common principles. "The Islamic Republic of Iran has always felt close and related to the African countries which have been the victims of the world arrogance," Khamene'i said.

He concluded by saying that through expanding their cooperation, Third World countries could counter the United States and other world arrogant powers.

Musavi Praises War Effort, Other Successes

LD151424 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister, stressed the need for further efforts for self-sufficiency of industry alongside the victories of the war-fronted combatants, during a meeting with the managing director and a group of Pars Khodro Company employees, yesterday. In reference to the tit-for-tat measures against the Iraqi regime's aggressions he said:

The lightning actions of our brave pilots in bombing Baghdad, which arose universal amazement and disbelief, is the prelude to a new epic that is deeply rooted in our Islamic nation's beliefs.

We have learned in Islam and have experienced through the revolution that we must return blow for blow, because the might of the big powers cannot be allowed to scare us. The prime minister added: We have dealt a severe blow for every boldness of the Iraqi regime. The retaliation in kind by our Air Force's bombing of Baghdad was the first punishment of the rulers of Ba'th party. Our fighting forces decided to teach them a further lesson on the ground after they continued their boldness.

As you have witnessed, by carrying out the missile attack on Baghdad we showed that we have the power to pound any point in Iraq. In effect, by hitting the center of Baghdad with a missile, we declared to Saddam that he will not be able to force us to compromise.

The prime minister said: We do not rely on military hardware, though we have used the most modern techniques. We would

have defended our belief and the great achievements of the Islamic Revolution by tooth and claw, even if we had had no missiles.

Musavi, with reference to innovations and original ideas shown by the experts and workforce of the industries in the face of unscrupulous actions by Islam's enemies, such as economic sanctions, and to the achievement of independence from foreign aid, said: The Third World nations must, first, regain their lost belief in their own independent might in order to free themselves from the world arrogance's trap. They must believe, as our nation does, that they can stand on their own feet independent of foreign forces, but by enduring the difficulties.

Velayati Sends Message to UN on War, POW's

LD141712 Tehran IRNA in English 1644 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati sent a message to the U.N. secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar regarding the Iraqi regime's attacks on Iran's residential areas, the situation of the POW's and the use of chemical weapons.

The message mentioned Iraqi violations of the June 12 agreement in the past, adding that Baghdad did not give an explicit reply to the recent request of the U.N. secretary general on not attacking residential quarters as of 23:59 GMT Monday [11 March].

It said Iraq's repeated breaching of the agreement on the one hand, and its excuse-seeking conditions on this issue, on the other, proved Iraq intended from the very beginning to provide grounds to weaken and break this humanitarian agreement. Iraq was trying to prevent the revival of the agreement through vague statements and by politicising the issue, the message said.

It said the Iraqi attitude was not new, as the international society had experienced Iraq's reaction towards the publication of the U.N. POW's report in which the maltreatment of Iranian captives, including torture and sexual assaults, had been criticised.

Regarding POW's, Iraq presented impractical and irrational proposals while the Islamic Republic submitted practical and specific proposals for the exchange of POW's and the improvement of their situation, the message added.

It stressed that by no replying to the secretary general's call on the non-deployment of chemical weapons, Iraq practically stifled all international moves in this connection to keep the way open for the use of this inhuman and horrible weapon.

The message added that the question has been raised for the international society whether the U.N. would accept the dead-end imposed on it by the Iraqi regime or it will be able to decisively make Iraq follow international regulations.

The foreign minister urged De Cuellar to declare his explicit view on these issues, specially on the deployment of chemical weapons as well as the recent call for a halt on attacks on residential areas.

In both cases, it said, the Islamic Republic of Iran immediately submitted clear and positive replies to the U.N. secretary general in order to observe humanistic issues and international laws.

Velayati, USSR Envoy Discuss Relations, War

LD141711 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today received the ambassador of the Soviet Union in Tehran, V.K. Boldyrev. During the meeting, the two sides discussed mutual relations as well as the recent developments of the Iraqi imposed war.

Envoys Sent to Asia, Europe, UN With War Message

LD151328 Tehran IRNA in English 1305 GMT 15 Mar 85

["Iran Launches War-Related Diplomatic Drive" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA — A group of Iranian Foreign Ministry officials left Tehran today for the capitals of nine Asian and European countries as well as the United Nations.

They carry messages of concern on the latest developments in the Iraqi imposed war, particularly the Iraqi bombardment of civilian areas and its use of chemical weapons.

Iran's policy of retaliation vis-a-vis Iraqi aggressions and the conditions of the prisoners of war are dealt with in the messages. Five high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials will deliver the message to the leaders of Pakistan, India, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, East Germany, Japan, China and the United Nations secretary general.

Further on Iran-Iraq War, Tigris Operation

Iraqis Leaving for Holy Cities

LD141658 Tehran IRNA in English 1647 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, March 14, IRNA — With renewed Iranian artillery attacks on Basra, the situation in the city plunged into chaos once again last night and security forces tried to halt the ever-increasing exodus of residents. Reports reaching here said despite suppressive measures by the security forces, people are leaving Basra for the holy cities of Karbala, Al-Najaf, Al-Kazimiyah and Samarra, which have been declared safe by Iran. With the Baghdad-Basra highway under Iranian shelling, the Iraqi regime is using a secondary road to keep its links with Basra.

Tehran, Tabriz Hit 14 Mar

LD141756 Tehran IRNA in English 1753 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — The Islamic forces continued their battle with the Iraqi forces inside enemy territory east of Tigris today, inflicting more enemy casualties and losses.

The number of enemy troops killed or wounded has now surpassed 1,000, while more than 75 Iraqi tanks and personnel carriers have been destroyed. An enemy PC-7 aircraft was also shot down in the region by anti-aircraft fire today.

The Joint Staff Communique said this evening that the Islamic forces had achieved "magnificent victories" in the Tigris theater and were continuing their battle with the infliction of "severe blows" upon the Iraqi forces.

The enemy brigades Nos. 93, 94, 429, and 703 had sustained considerable losses of men and equipment and more had been taken captive during Thursday's battle.

It said Air Force fighter-bombers carried out raids against enemy motor pools and concentration centers in the region at 2:10 pm (10:40 GMT), inflicting heavy losses. The planes returned to their bases safely, the communique said. Iranian jets also bombed the northern Iraqi city of Al-'Amadiyah today and destroyed a radar station in the same region, it added.

Meanwhile, Iraqi planes infiltrated the air space of the cities of Sanandaj, Piranshah, Baneh, Saqqez, and Bakhtaran in the north west of the country but were forced to escape under heavy ground-to-air fire between 3:45 and 7:50 am (00:15 and 04:20 GMT). However Iraqi air attacks against Tehran and Tabriz resulted in a number of casualties at 5:30 and 4:35 am (02:00 and 01:05 GMT) respectively.

In other war fronts, the Joint Staff reported that the Islamic forces repelled Iraqi patrol units in the southern fronts of Fakkeh and Yebis, and in the central fronts of Naft-e Shah, Qasr-e Shirin, and Sumar during Tuesday and Wednesday.

It said most intense exchanges of fire in the south occurred on the Nahr-Anbar and Abadan fronts, and in the Naft-e Shah and Sumar fronts in the central sector.

Tigris Battle Situation Reported

GF150534 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Correspondent's report from east of Tigris — recorded]

[Text] According to reports at 0500 [0130 GMT] this morning, the number of enemy tanks and armored personnel carriers destroyed on the east of Tigris have now reached 76. More than 300 soldiers and Iraqi officers have been captured by the forces of Islam, and nearly 1,000 Iraqi soldiers and officers have been killed or wounded as a result of the fire of the combatants of Islam. The bodies of the soldiers and officers of the Iraqi Army killed in this battle are scattered in the marshes east of Tigris and in area swamps.

Among the corpses of the Iraqi forces in an operational axis, our correspondent saw the body of a senior officer. The actions of the health units, aides, and doctors are quite commendable. The special Martyr Sadr brigade, comprised of combatants and Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries, is fighting at the scene of the battle beside the Islamic Army. I cannot put into words to describe the moral atmosphere, fervor and activity at the fronts, the (?aid) to the fronts, and the divine succor to the combatants at the fronts.

Tehran Antiaircraft Guns Open Fire

LD151003 Tehran IRNA in English 1001 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 15 IRNA — Anti-aircraft guns in the Iranian capital went into action at 1:03 pm (12:33 GMT) [both times as received].

Thirty minutes earlier, a bomb attached to a terrorist exploded at the Friday prayers ceremony at Tehran university. The terrorist was killed instantly and there were a number of casualties among the worshippers. President Khamene'i who led the sermon was not injured and he resumed his address after three minutes.

Details of the anti-aircraft fire are not yet clear.

Iraqi Casualties Reach 1200

LD151055 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] According to a report reaching us from the Khatam al-Anbiya headquarters, the joint operational center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, as a continuation of the operations conducted by Islam's combatants east of the Tigris, Islam's forces succeeded in killing or wounding more enemy troops; thereby, the number of enemy casualties has reached over 1200. Also, with the capture of more enemy troops, the number of Iraqi POW's from these operations has exceeded 500. Moreover, another 12 enemy tanks and armored personnel carriers have been set ablaze and destroyed by Islam's mighty combatants. Also, appreciable quantities of weapons and ammunition and a number of their vehicles have fallen intact into the hands of our forces.

Progress Reported in Tigris Battle

LD151231 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1041 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Our correspondent reports from Khatam ol-Anbiya headquarters:

Last night, Islam's combatants succeeded in dealing some heavy blows to the Iraqi forces stationed in the middle sector of the operational fronts, east of Tigris. The enemy, having lost the initiative and its mobility, is engaged in regrouping its scattered units and collecting the dead and injured.

The latest reports, according to the informed sources of the Armed Forces, indicate that during the past 48 hours, throughout these fronts, nearly 40 enemy tanks and armored personnel carriers have been destroyed by the mighty warriors of Islam's army, with a number of Iraqi weapons taken as booty; counting continues. So far, the number of enemy tanks and

personnel carriers that have been destroyed since the start of the operation has reached 85.

The task of transferring POW's to the rear of the fronts continues. According to reports from operational headquarters, so far around 500 POW's have been counted, including a number of Iraqi officers and NCO's.

In the 4 days since the start of these proud operations of the victorious warriors of the army of monotheism against the Ba'thist-Zionist forces of Iraq, the roar of artillery and light or heavy weaponry still sounds throughout the lines of engagement. The Islamic combatants are in complete control over their positions and are engaged in defensive and fortification activities.

Based on reports from correspondents of the Central News Unit, the helicopters of the Army Aviation Force and the aircraft of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force succeeded in neutralizing the aerial attacks of the Iraqi aggressors while pounding the Iraqi positions deep inside their defensive lines with full force.

Despite enemy attempts to use chemical warfare to compensate for its defeats during the past 2 days, so far, the enemy chemical attacks have been successfully neutralized. According to reports from the medical relief units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps based at the operational area, thanks to the efforts of the relief workers and the medical personnel as well as knowledge of preventive measures against such weapons, up to now every enemy chemical attack has been successfully repulsed. So much so that the treatment for full recovery has been reduced to 1 day.

A noteworthy point of the battles of Islam's combatants is the active and extensive presence of the clergy side by side with the fighters. As in the past, such presence has given the spiritual atmosphere of the fronts [words indistinct].

The indescribable and magnificiant enthusiasm observed in the ranks of the Islamic Republic's victorious Army is due to divine succour and the high morale of the combatants.

Villages Near Hamadan Attacked

LD151142 Tehran IRNA in English 1130 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Hamadan, Hamadan Pr., March 14, IRNA — Iraqi planes fired rockets at two villages near Hamadan 1.05 (09.35 GMT) today. Possible casualties have not been reported yet.

More Chemical Attacks Reported

LD151239 Tehran IRNA in English 1234 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Pr., March 15, IRNA — Iraq has used chemical weapons in five regions in the southern battle fronts since the start of the Iranian offensive on Monday. The latest chemical attack was carried out east of the Majnun Island. So far 200 Iranian combatants have been transferred to hospitals and treated for poisoning from cyanide, nerve and phosphorous gases.

An 18-year old poisoned combatant from Tehran told IRNA here that Iraqi planes dropped six large capsules on an Iranian position and after exploding on the ground, a white gas ascended into the air. Another combatant said the gas looked more grayish and most of the gas was neutralised.

President Khamene'i warned today that Iran did not want to use chemical weapons, but was able to. "If Iraq uses chemical weapons, we will give a firmer reply and be sure that we will do it," he threatened in today's Friday prayers.

The poisoned combatants particularly suffer from weakness and eye and skin irritation as well as respiratory difficulties. But the Iranian forces have been well-prepared for the attacks in order to avoid mass-poisoning which occurred during Iraqi attacks last year.

Dr. Taherian, who is the head of a special hospital set up in the south to treat poisoned combatants, said the Islamic forces have equipped themselves with various chemical-gas-neutralising equipment.

He said the hospital had also prepared itself for speedy treatment of chemical victims round-the-clock.

Iraqi Prisoner Figures Updated

LD151456 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1405 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners: Please pay attention; please pay attention to a communique from Khatam al-Anbiya headquarters.

According to a report from Khatam al-Anbiya headquarters, the center for the joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the operations of the fighters of Islam that have been started with the holy code-name of "Ya Fatemat ol-Zahra" in the region east of the Tigris inside Iraqi territory are continuing with full intensity.

According to this report, during the severe clashes that took place during the past few hours between the forces of Islam and enemy troops, heavy losses and casualties have been inflicted upon the enemy. In these operations, hundreds of enemy forces have been killed or wounded and more than another 200 of them have been captured by our forces. Therefore, the total number of Iraqi officers and soldiers who have been sent behind the lines since the beginning of the operation exceeds 700. Also, a considerable quantity of their weapons have been set on fire and destroyed by the forces of Islam and a large quantity of war equipment and weapons have been captured in good condition.

Iraqi Central Command Captured

LD151619 Tehran IRNA in English 1613 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA — The Islamic forces have captured the Hawr Central Command Headquarters south of the

Iraqi city of Al-'Amarah in the Hawr al-Azim in the continuation of the "Badr" operation.

French Charge in Iran Interviewed on Situation

LD150848 Paris Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Violent clashes are taking place on the battleground between the Iraqi and Iranian troops south of the front. There has also been some fighting around Basra. On the other hand there has been no raid by the air forces against Baghdad and Tehran since the bombing during the night of Wednesday to Thursday. Ulysses Gosset interviewed by telephone the French charge d'affaires in the Iranian capital. He confirms that thus far the situation is calm:

[Begin recording] [Undentified foreign official] The night has been quite calm. There was a sort of curfew. When night fell the lights were extinguished in the city and cars were traveling without lights; however, the night was quite calm. People are certainly worried, but there is no panic. The Iranian media attempts to give the news without dramatization. On the one hand they condemn the enemy for its actions against civilian populations but on the other hand do not want to unduly bother and worry the population.

[Gosset] What is the situation of the French people residing in Iran? Have you given any thought to possibly evacuating them?

[Official] There are very few French people in Iran, some 100 to 180. A number reside in Tabriz, in Azarbayjan on a work site. As regards those in the north, measures have indeed been taken. They have been removed from the work site for the time being. As regards the other French people in Iran, naturally some are thinking of leaving the large towns. Let us say that thus far there has been no move to return to France. Of course, one is not protected from (?the bombs) that could fall in the wrong place. This being said, I do not have the feeling of an escalation, or at least of a true worsening. Things can continue in the same vein. Therefore, we remain calm under the circumstances. [end recording]

Clandestine Accuses Iran of Escalating Shelling

TA142010 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Unattributed commentary: "Expansion of the War's Scope and Its Grave Consequences"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: The U.S.-sponsored war of attrition between Iran and Iraq is gaining a wider and more dangerous dimension. The Islamic regime — which according to Khomeyni's decree depicts the war as the command of the Koran and God, and the opponents of war, devastation, and killing as the foes of God — is pressing ahead in escalating and intensifying the war through intransigence and stubbornness.

As we are aware, as a result of reciprocal attacks in recent days by Iran and Iraq, many cities, including the capitals of both countries, were subjected to bombardment and missile attacks that inflicted unbelievable human and material losses both on our own nation and the Iraqi people. The Islamic regime's mouthpieces, with a vanity and haughtiness of mullahs, disseminated with great fanfare a report to the effect that as a result of a direct hit by Iran's surface-to-surface missile, the building of Iraq's central bank situated in the heart of Baghdad was totally devastated resulting in numerous casualties.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in his usual pompous style, claimed that so far Iran had sufficed with warnings but that henceforth it would retaliate with missiles. Anyone acquainted with the method of operation and the policy of Iraq's regime knows that shellings, artillery fire, and missile attacks by Iran's Islamic regime will be reciprocated by the Iraqi regime, inevitably leading to the bombardment of towns, centers of provinces, and even Tehran, our country's capital. The result is that with the expansion of the dimension of the war by both sides, again thousands of our homeland's people and the Iraqi people will be killed, wounded, and maimed, and scores of towns and villages devastated. Many public institutions and residential areas will be destroyed and ruined under the fire and steel of bombs, mortars, and bullets.

By expanding the scope of the war, and by resorting to the bombardment and shelling of towns, including Iraq's capital, the Islamic regime wants, as it says, to show that the continuation of war, bloodshed, killings, and devastation will eventually achieve victory for that bloody and ruthless regime in its warmongering policy. Everyone knows, however, that the Islamic regime and its arrogant authorities, by expanding and continuing the war, will further confront Iran and Iranians with various problems and calamities, even unforeseen tragedies and disasters. The statements, sermons, and demagogic remarks by such individuals as Mr Rafsanjani cannot cover up the bitter reality and the grave consequences of the Islamic regime's dangerous warmongering policy.

The Iranian people, and without doubt the people of Iraq are fed up with the war. Our homeland's people can no longer witness the continuation of war and devastation, the squandering of the country's revenue, and the sacrifice of their dear ones in this U.S.-sponsored war. Contrary to the Velayat-e Faqih, his disciples, and his errand boys, the people are saying: Put an end to this war, and do not send our children further to their deaths by expanding it.

SAIRI Chairman Comments on Iraqi Muslims in War

LD141858 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Following the start of operations by the Islam combatants east of Tigris, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mahmud al-Hashemi, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI], during an interview with an IRNA correspondent held in one of the headquarters in the south of our country, today expounded on the role of Muslim Iraqi mujaheds in these operations and said: The Iraqi Mujahed forces have inflicted heavy blows on the Ba'thist enemy, alongside the other combatants east of the Tigris.

He referred to the increased activities of the military division of SAIRI, after the fifth session of the assembly, and said: Following the start of the fifth term, the SAIRI mobilization office began to absorb the voluntary forces from all the Iraqi-populated areas of Iran. The invitation by the SAIRI of Iraqi Muslims has been responded to in an unprecedented manner.

He referred to recent developments in Iraq and said: These events were in the majority of cases due to the weakness of Saddam's regime. He stressed that the Saddamist regime is facing defeat and destruction. The lengthened war has driven Saddam to insanity. Some indications to this effect are the execution of Iraqi Muslims, the presence of over 200,000 political prisoners, and the martyrdom of a number of eminent clergy such as the ten illustrious members of Grand Ayatollah al-Hakim's family.

Hojjat ol-Eslam al-Hashemi referred to the achievements gained by Islam's combatants during the operations east of the Tigris, which has caused the distintegration of the Saddamist army, and asked the Iraqi soldiers to join the Islamic forces.

He added: Throughout this war, Iran has not practised tit-for-tat tactics because of its Islamic stand; and tried to resolve the problem of the attacks on populated areas by diplomatic means. These attempts were rendered ineffective by the Iraqi regime continuing the bombings of cities, and Iran is now driven into retaliatory actions.

SAIRI Calls on Iraqis To Join Volunteer Forces

LD141306 Tehran IRNA in English 1247 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), in a statement issued Thursday urged Iraqi people to rise against the Iraqi regime.

The statement issued following the recent victorious offensive of the Iranian forces launched in east Tigris, further called on Iraqi militarymen to join the ranks of Iraqi people and put an end to the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

In another statement, all Iraqis in Iran were invited to join volunteer forces and take part in the battle fronts.

Kuwait Expells 14 Muslim Iranian Workers

GF141710 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] The Government of Kuwait has expelled another 14 Muslim Iranian workers from that Sheykhdom. According to a report by the Central News Unit, this group arrived in Bushehr port via Persian Gulf maritime borders during the past few days and were accomodated in special camps for deportees.

One of the deportees, who had resided in Kuwait for 18 years, was detained following his arrest and expelled without informing his family. All the belongings of this group were confiscated by the Kuwaiti Government.

Embassy Employee Detained by Police in Kuwait

LD141751 Tehran IRNA in English 1527 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, March 14, IRNA — A Kuwaiti newspaper today reported that a local employee of the Iranian Embassy here was under interrogation by Kuwaiti security police. 'Ali Ma'soumi had been missing since Monday [11 March] and Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry officials had expressed lack of knowledge of his whereabouts in reply to queries made by the Iranian Embassy.

The paper *AL-RAY AL-'AMM* said the Foreign Ministry had been informed about Ma'soumi's detention two days ago.

Iranian diplomats here said it was still not clear for them why the employee had been detained or what would happen to him and that Kuwaiti officials refused to answer questions.

Clandestine: Khomeyni Moved to 'Unknown Location'

GF150756 [Clandestine] Radio Nejat-e Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Following the second air attack by Iraq on Tehran in the vicinity of the Jamaran heights, Ruhollah Khomeyni has been moved from his residence to an unknown location.